

Summer 2005

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## Family Matters

Inside This Auburn Knolls Jewel

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# An Easy Balance

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Sitting on what used to be Canton's Hoover Golf course area is the gated condominium community Auburn Knolls, by builder George Zablo. Defying everything the word "condominium" normally represents, the home of Pam and Scott Mitchell spans almost 7,000 square feet of living space. Interestingly, the eclectic builder stacked the home going both up and down, with the main living areas each positioned on staggered levels below.

"These kids could competently manage stairs long before they walk!" Pam laughs of their four children ages one year to seven years. Built in 1995, the French Country, multi level has three bedrooms and four baths. Initially intended to be a roomy bachelor pad with two guest rooms, the home has experienced a quick, massive family transformation. "Scott was building it when we met, and it was going in an entirely different direction," recalls Pam. "Our poor decorator! We only changed plans and color schemes three times," she laughs.

Still maintaining some of the masculine personality through large leather furniture and strong, dark wood tones, the home has an easy balance. In the areas that were lightened, soft and neutral tones prevail. Nowhere will you find the mauves and teals from the original interior color plan.

Surprisingly, the spacious home has a cozy sense of intimacy as a result of its clever floor plan. Upon entering, guests are greeted by a foyer with chandelier and stairs that go up to the kids' rooms. Nicholas' room has a rustic cowboy theme, and the girls share a moon and stars fantasy in blue and yellow. Walking forward and down six steps brings the family into the "gallery" where the dining room, kitchen, and master suite are located on staggered levels. Ceramic tile covers the foyer as well as the kitchen, and rich cherry floors are found throughout the rest of the home.

Simple yet grand, the lengthy dining room seats at least ten, and the rich wood tones of the table are set off in a triangular pattern.

The living area has a petit grand piano and a limestone and granite fireplace. Along the left side of the great room is a sun room with steps leading up to the master suite. The cheerful all season room served as a light-filled nursery for a few years.

Simple yet grand, the lengthy dining room seats at least ten, and the rich wood tones of the table are set off in a triangular pattern. Open to the rest of the home, it still has its own space but doesn't cut off conversation from the kitchen areas. The kitchen is another few steps down and boasts Schrock custom cherry cabinetry and granite countertops.

The lower level, like the rest of the home, is staggered on different levels. The half level hosts

Left: The dining room has thick neutral carpet with color popping in from floral arrangements and artwork.

Right: This view shows the open end of the dining room and expansive kitchen.





Scott's office as well as a gym and a full bathroom. The lowest level holds the game room with TV, card table, pool table, wet bar, and fireplace. French doors lead out onto a patio with a hot tub.

The half-acre lot is very wooded and private, bestowing a sense of privilege and seclusion despite the close proximity of the local mall. One of the Mitchell family's favorite features of the home is the carefully landscaped yard. With four patios, two ponds, and a waterfall, the kids frequently embark of frog catching expeditions.

As owner of Scott Process Systems Incorporated, Scott, the hands on father would often find the keys to the landscaper's Bobcat and rearrange some of his creative work during the night. "It became such a funny joke. Scott would come home in the evening and start moving things around that the landscaper had done that day," laughs Pam.

Most importantly Scott and Pam have a great sense of pride in their home and community. Details like the silver maple tree right outside the kitchen deck, and quaint stepping stones leading out to the bus stop, make this loving home perfect for the ever-growing Mitchell family. |

Top Left: Lower level wet bar.  
 Left: A lower level recreation and relaxation area with brick fireplace and large-scale masculine furniture.  
 Top Right: The girls' room is a fantasy of stars and moons.  
 Right: The spacious master bath is accented by fresh green hues.

